

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON: Berger's Auto Custom Shop					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rock Forge Distillery					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Millers Church Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Leitersburg Vicinity					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____					
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Mary P. Berger					
STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 5, Box 271					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		21740
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House					
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		21740
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 369/118					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) (Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50% <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This structure now serving as Berger's Auto Custom Shop is located on the west bank of the Antietam Creek on the south side of Millers Church Road near its junction with Maryland Route 60 just south of the Pennsylvania Line, in Washington County. It is situated on low lying ground and faces north with its gable end toward Millers Church Road.</p> <p>This building is constructed of brick, two bays in width at the front elevation and three bays in length. Set on low stone foundations, its walls display common bonding at all elevations with, generally, five courses of stretchers between header rows. There appears to be no decorative work associated with the masonry. A modern aluminum building is attached to the north elevation and an older frame structure extends from the south elevation.</p> <p>Windows appear to have been placed in the walls with some concern for symmetry. Narrow rounded frames hold six over six pane double hung sashes where those that are original remain. Wide wooden lintels are present over the openings. Some window frames have hinge pins indicating that shutters were present.</p> <p>A large entrance is located at the north end of the east elevation. A smaller door is located in the same elevation. In the west gable wall doors are present at both of the main stories. All appear to be original with framing similar to that of the windows.</p> <p>The roof extends beyond the end walls and terminates with a barge board trimmed with courses of molding. Returns are set deep in the gable walls. The eaves are finished with boxing with decorative molding. Small brick chimneys are located inside each gable end.</p> <p>The original use of this building is not known. It would appear, however, that it may have been functioned as part of the Rock Forge ironmaking, milling and distillery complex during the 19th century. The building is in fair condition and stands on a tract containing 16.441 acres.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itorion | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is significant for its architecture and for the role it played in the Rock Forge complex during the 19th century.

Architecturally the structure is an example of a mid 19th century vernacular building presumably constructed for some commercial or industrial purpose as suggested by the type and location of its doors. It is said to have been used as a distillery. This tradition is supported by references to "Rock Forge Distillery" in deeds for this property.

The area in which it is located was long established as a commercial and industrial site. The Rock Forge, an iron operation run by Samuel and Daniel Hughes, owners of several other iron making concerns in the area, was established in 1770 and operated until 1795.¹ The Forge is said to have been located on the west bank of the Antietam north of Millers Church Road. A 1794 map of Washington County, however, places the Forge on the east bank of the Creek. A grist mill was also located at Rock Forge. All that remains of this industrial and commercial complex are some depressions in the earth.

¹ Joseph T. Swingewald, Jr., The Iron Ores Of Maryland. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. (1911) p. 143.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Herbert C., History Of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, Md: the author, 1908.

Griffith, Dennis, "Map Of Maryland," 1794. Second Edition, 1813.

Singewald, Joseph T., Jr. The Iron Ores Of Maryland. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1911.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16.441 acres.

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant		DATE October 1975
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey		
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex		
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland	

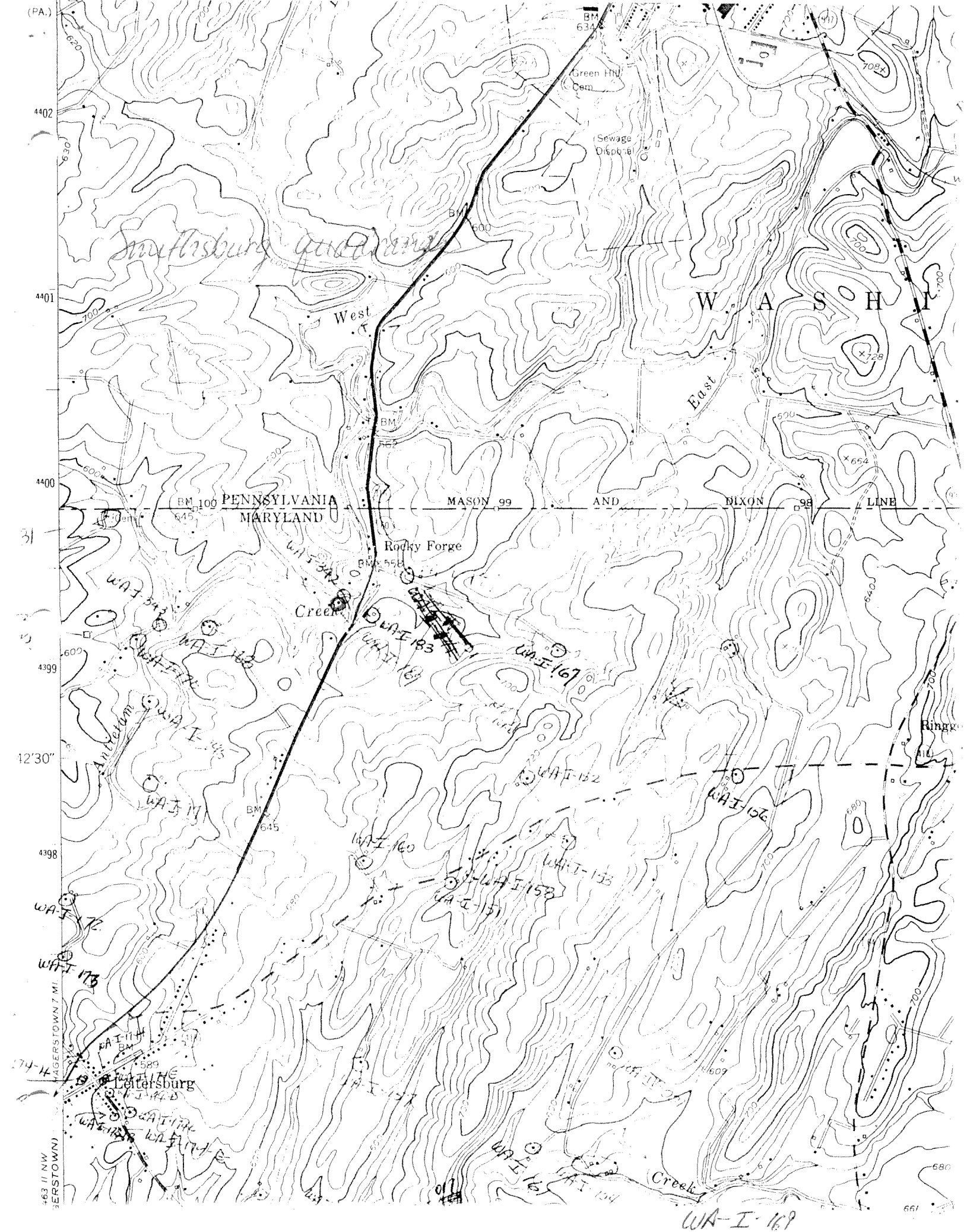
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





WA-1-164

N.E.

May 1974

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY